

Drought Accomplishments

Drought

Water years 2007-09 represent the 12th driest three-year period in California's measured hydrologic record. Governor Schwarzenegger issued a Drought Executive Order in 2008 and a first-ever statewide Drought Emergency Proclamation in 2009. The Executive Order and Proclamation directed the Department of Water Resources (DWR), together with other state agencies, to take specified actions to respond to drought conditions. During this period, the DWR implemented those requirements and a variety of additional measures to respond to drought and ensure that the water needs of Californians were met.



Drought Preparation and Planning

- **Drought preparedness workshops** - DWR conducted numerous workshops and webinars to prepare for potential water shortages and help urban water suppliers address dry conditions.
- **5-Year Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)** - DWR completed the Drought Contingency Plan. The purpose of the DCP is to minimize drought impacts by improving agency coordination; enhancing monitoring and early warning capabilities; water shortage impact assessments; and preparedness, response, and recovery programs. The DCP is intended to become part of the California Water Plan Update process which occurs every five years.
- **Drought Monitoring** - As a requirement of the 2009 Proclamation, DWR provided periodic reports to document drought conditions and impacts experienced during 2007-2009. DWR also provided monthly drought bulletins conditions between 2009 and 2010.
- **Coordination with world-wide drought efforts** - DWR continues to coordinate with other regions and countries experiencing severe drought such as Australia, improving its drought preparedness and management, by studying how other regions and countries have responded to long-term drought.
- **Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs)** - UWMPs help water suppliers ensure reliable water for their customers during various hydrologic conditions. Beginning in 2007, DWR held 18 UWMP workshops in response to the recent drought, to encourage water systems to review and update their water shortage contingency plans.
www.dwr.water.ca.gov/drought

Water Conservation

- **Statewide Save Our Water Program** - In April 2009, DWR and the Association of California Water Agencies launched the statewide "Save Our Water" outreach and education program, calling for all Californians to immediately increase water conservation. The Program was re-launched in May 2010 with the theme "Real People Real Savings."
- **20 x 2020** - DWR worked with other state agencies and the legislature to develop a comprehensive plan that was finalized in February 2010 to reduce urban per capita water use 20% by 2020.
- **Water savings at state facilities** - In 2009, DWR worked with the Department of General Services to implement water conservation best management practices. These are now mandated in state facilities.
- **New Dual Plumbing Standards** - New building code standards have been adopted to safely plumb apartments, condominiums, and businesses with potable and recycled water systems (dual plumbing).
- **Model Landscape Ordinance** - In 2009, DWR adopted an updated model water efficient landscape ordinance to target reductions in outdoor water use. DWR then partnered with CA Urban Water Conservation Council and other organizations to conduct workshops to assist local governments and urban water suppliers to adopt and implement the ordinance.

Water Supply

- **2009 Drought Water Bank** - DWR administered 14 agreements for sale of water and 21 agreements for purchase of water through the 2009 Drought Water Bank, and facilitated over 150 additional transfers and exchanges. In 2010, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) are working cooperatively to assist with the transfer of water from willing sellers to willing buyers. DWR and the USBR are also working together to establish a long term water transfer program to allow future water transfers to be as efficient as possible.

Technical Assistance

- **CA Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS)** - DWR has completed upgrades to the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) including an increased number of weather stations and improved system maintenance that will provide important water saving irrigation information.
- **Groundwater and well monitoring** - DWR has expanded its groundwater data collection. This information, along with other drought impact data, is incorporated into drought impact reports and bulletins to provide current information on water supply conditions.
- **Financial assistance** - In 2008, as part of response to the executive order, DWR awarded Proposition 50 grants totaling \$984,800 for water supply projects and programs that help prepare for and respond to drought.

Emergency Response

- **Federal, State and County coordination** - DWR continues to meet with California Emergency Management Agency and other state and local agencies to coordinate emergency response activities.
- **Response to developing emergency conditions** - DWR regional offices work with local water agencies to provide real time information on local water supply conditions and provide assistance in responding to drought impacts.